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THE USE AND ABUSE OF CALOMEL.

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The life of a physician is generally, and especially in the country, attended by an amount of care, anxiety, self-denial and vexation, of which few, out of the profession, have any idea. This, measurably, arises from the nature of the employment, the various sympathies which are called into action in his intercourse with his patients, and much from the ingratitude of those for whom he labors. It is a matter of indifference to them whether he rides in his barouche upon McAdamized turnpikes, or on horse-back over the *rail-roads* of days gone by; he may grow pale over the last drop of midnight oil, to qualify himself for the faithful and efficient discharge of his duty, and who regards it? He may contend with darkness and buffet the storms, and then be denied or reluctantly paid the pittance for which he toils. However unpleasant all this may be, it is not so humiliating and annoying as, when life and health are depending on some particular prescription, to be compelled to contend with and combat the prejudices entertained by his employer against different articles of the materia medica. Among these there are none that meet him so often, or come in for so large a share of obloquy and reproach, as *mercurials*. That all active medicines should be used with prudence, caution and skill, is very proper, and whether these have been so used is immaterial; one thing will be readily admitted, that they have been less abused in their use than they have been slandered in their effects; and all the injury that has ever resulted from their excessive use would never have given them the character they now possess with a large portion of our employers, had it not been aided by ***contrivers of patents***, ***pedlars of nostrums***, ***Thomsonians***, ***Reformers***, ***Homœopaths***, ***hydropaths***, and even REGULAR PHYSICIANS. Why the former are so zealous in their hostility, can be readily understood; but why the last-named should, by unqualified denunciations, lend their aid to decry such valuable and indispensable preparations, is not so readily perceived, except it be to build themselves up upon the ruins of some poor wight, who has unfortunately salivated a patient, and who by his industry and talents is likely to stand in their way. That unprincipled quacks and ignorant pretenders can take any course, for the sake of popularity, is very certain—but how literary, scientific, intelligent and honorable men can lend their names to promote and strengthen these prejudices, is truly incomprehensible.

We are led to these remarks by a paragraph which is now going the rounds of the political journals, purporting to be an extract from a *lecture* lately delivered by Professor Chapman, of Philadelphia; which for its severity, indiscretion and *misrepresentation*, exceeds anything that the most violent enemy of calomel would dare to put forth. It out-Herod's Herod himself. Coming from one occupying the elevated station which he does, it will be seized upon with avidity by the ***nostrum venders, reformers*** and ***pretenders*** throughout the land, and heralded forth as proof positive of the truth of the numerous slanders which they have so long and so zealously propagated. If no other injury would result from this paragraph, than to furnish a weapon by which unprincipled men might combat the regular practice of medicine, and render it unpopular, we would permit it to pass unnoticed; but, as it comes from "***powers in high places***," its errors deserve to be exposed, lest some, adopting the views of the Professor, might jeopardize the health and lives of those entrusted to their care.

Here is the paragraph, as published in the "Baltimore Patriot" of the 19th of October:—"Gentlemen, if you could see what I almost daily see in my private practice in this city, persons from the South in the very last stages of wretched existence, emaciated to a skeleton; with both tables of the skull almost completely perforated in many places; the nose half gone, with rotten jaws, ulcerated throats, breath more pestiferous, more intolerable than the poisonous upas, limbs racked with the pains of the inquisition, minds as imbecile as the puling babe, a grievous burden to themselves and a disgusting spectacle to others, you would exclaim, as I have often done, O! the lamentable want of science that dictates the abuse of that noxious drug, calomel, in the southern States. Gentlemen, it is a disgraceful reproach to the profession of medicine; it is quackery, horrid, unwarrantable, murderous quackery. What merit do gentlemen of the South flatter themselves they possess by being able to salivate a patient? Cannot the veriest fool in Christendom salivate—give calomel? But I will ask another question. ***Who is it that can stop the career of mercury at will, after he has taken the reins in his own destructive and ungovernable hands?*** He who, for an ordinary cause, resigns the fate of his patients to mercury, is a vile enemy to the sick; and if he is tolerably popular, will, in one successful season, have paved the way for the business of life; for he has enough to do ever afterwards to stop the mercurial breach of the constitution of his dilapidated patients. He has thrown himself in fearful proximity to death, and has now to fight him at arm's length as long as the patient maintains a miserable existence."

If such a horrible condition was truly the consequence of salivation, there are few who would "resign the fate of their patients to mercury for an ordinary," or even an extraordinary "cause," since the use of any remedy, that is worse than the disease, could never be countenanced by a benevolent mind. In this paragraph it was evidently the intention of the Professor to convey the idea that these symptoms are the legitimate and usual consequence of the exhibition of calomel, as practised in the common endemics of the South, and without qualification he leads us to attribute the above state of the patient to his having been salivated;

for says he, "what merit do gentlemen of the South flatter themselves they possess by being able to salivate a patient?" &c.—as if salivation simply, or the ordinary constitutional effect of calomel, was the particular matter against which he would direct his anathema. The whole tenor of the article seems to be to impress upon the mind of the reader that the constitutional effect of mercurials does almost uniformly produce the state he has so graphically described. And from the last two sentences it is very manifest he intended to apply his remarks to the use of calomel in the diseases of the South generally, without reference to any one *particular disease.* Lest there should be any error in the construction given to the Professor's language, it was submitted to a number of non-professional individuals, who uniformly received from it the above impression.

Now we are as much opposed to an imprudent, uncalled-for or ultra use of calomel in the diseases of the South and West as the Professor possibly can be, and would at all times protest against it. We are not of those who believe that, in these endemics, salivation, in any case, insures the safety of the patient; but on the contrary we are satisfied that many are injured where this opinion has been carried out in practice by the medical attendant; yet, not to the extent either in kind, magnitude, or duration, which is urged in the above quotation. Although we are not and never have been the apologist or defender of the ultra mercurialist —and do now most solemnly protest against being so classed—yet, we are constrained to say, that in thirty years' uninterrupted practice in the great Western Valley, where we have seen the *ultimatum* of ultraism in the use of this drug, we have never seen the state, described by the Professor, produced by calomel in any case, when prescribed for the cure of any of our endemics—and we unhesitatingly give it as our deliberate opinion that *calomel alone never did produce that state in any case whatever.* This is broad ground, but we trust we shall be able to maintain it by incontrovertible testimony.

There are a number of practitioners in the West, and probably in the South, too, who believe, and practise upon that belief, that the existence of any disease is incompatible with mercurial action; that when the patient is salivated, his safety is certain. With persons entertaining this opinion, it is natural to suppose, if an ordinary amount of calomel does not produce this effect an extraordinary will, or death must follow. Holding such an opinion, acting upon it, and having unbounded confidence in this drug, we might naturally conclude that large quantities would be used. But as "*a large quantity*" is rather indefinite, we will be more particular, and state, that we are now acquainted with a practitioner who, in a rather sparse country practice, covering a territory of ten by twenty miles, in his individual prescriptions, uses twenty-six pounds of calomel annually. This, admitting he had sixteen patients a week, which is a large average, would give to each the small amount of two hundred and forty grains per week—or sixteen doses of fifteen grains each—making four heroic doses for bad cases.

"The lamentable want of science at the South" could not, certainly, practise with a more liberal hand than this; yet, we will pledge our professional reputation—whether this be great or small is immaterial, for to us it is valuable, being our living—that not one case, such as is described by the Professor, can be found in the whole range of a practice in which this regular allopath has been engaged for more than eight years. It may be here observed that the inhabitants of this region are as healthy and have as strong constitutions as those residing in other localities where they have *professedly* much more *theory* and science.

[To be concluded next week.]

HOT-AIR AND SULPHUR-FUME BATHS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Since I opened my Private Hospital and announced that I had fitted up an apartment and apparatus for administering the hot-air and sulphur-fume baths, frequent inquiries have been made by medical gentlemen respecting the mode of giving them, the diseases in which they have been tried, the results of my experience, &c. &c.

The number of baths administered at my establishment during the past year falls a few tens short of a thousand. They have been resorted to in many cases which have resisted other methods of treatment. In the use and application of these therapeutic agents, the principles contained in Dr. Green's Treatise of Diseases of the Skin have been my chief guide; although, in addition to the information thus derived, I found it necessary to send to London for more minute and practical instruction on some points not discussed in his Compendium.

In compliance with your request, I propose to report from time to time, in your Journal, some of the most important and interesting cases that have come under my care, and which may be regarded also as fair exponents of all in which the efficacy of the baths has been brought to the test.

SILAS DURKEE, M.D.

Boston, December, 1842.

Eczema Impetiginodes.—The first case of cutaneous disease which I propose to relate, and in the treatment of which the hot-air and sulphur-fume bath bore a conspicuous part, is that of Miss C. G., aged 28. She was of a phlegmatic temperament, combined with a large share of nervous susceptibility. From the age of three years she had been afflicted with an eruption developed upon various regions of the body and limbs, at different times, and modified as to its degrees of intensity more by the season of the year than any other circumstance; the climax of her sufferings being always in the winter months. She applied to me on the 8th of January, 1842. At this time the flexures of the arms, the popliteal districts, and the outer ankles, were denuded of cuticle, and exhibited broad surfaces of hard, red, hypertrophied integument in a highly inflamed and excoriated state, with deep cracks through the skin in many places. The motions of the joints were impeded, and there were severe smarting and burning, which were greatly aggravated whenever the parts were exposed to the air or the patient got warm in bed. Pustulations occupied different parts of the surface, to a considerable extent upon the fore-arms, dorsal aspect of hands and fingers, and nearly the whole of the lower extremities—mostly in groups, but some were solitary. They continually poured out a sero-purulent secretion, and required several folds of rag in the course of the day to absorb the discharge, which impregnated the atmosphere for a few feet around with a peculiar sickly odor. Other districts, which had been the seat of the disease for a longer period, were covered with blotches of rough incrustations, of various dimensions and in various stages of forwardness; the older plates being thicker, of a deeper brown color, and more easily detached than those of later formation. There was a copious oozing of matter from beneath some of the scabs. The legs were much swollen, but the integument did not pit under pressure with the fingers. It was with much difficulty that she could walk. She was obliged to keep her hands and arms in loose bandages, and support them in slings or on a bolster. The frequent recurrence of intense pruritus and of scalding heat of the affected skin, especially by night, was a source of great torment to the patient; so much so that she was occasionally thrown into hysteric convulsions. The disease was migratory, and almost always gregarious in its habits. While it was in its nascent or most active state upon the extremities, scarcely an indication of it was visible on the face or trunk of the body; and so, *vice versa.* In its perambulations from one place to another, it has never lost any of its disagreeable features. Patient states that when a vesicle does appear (which is the elementary form of the complaint), and is allowed to pursue its course undisturbed, it usually arrives at its maximum development in seven or eight days; its contents are then evacuated or re-absorbed, and it begins to crust over and the diseased spot soon regains its original healthy aspect.

The patient has resorted to an almost infinite variety of medicines, sometimes on the recommendation of physicians and sometimes not, without ever realizing any permanent good result. Of late years she has been guided by her own experience, and relied chiefly upon the careful observance of a plain, simple diet, occasional doses of saline aperients, and the preservation of the skin in as pure and tranquil a state as possible by ablutions in soft warm water, weak alkaline washes, the frequent use of emollient poultices, gruel baths, &c. Her principal object in applying to me was to test the power that might be exerted upon the disease by the hot-air and sulphur fumigations.

The cutaneous inflammation and pruriency were at too high a point to warrant the use of the remedy in question. The patient was put upon a low diet, and took daily, ℥ xij. compound decoction of the *lignum guaiac.* and the *rad. sarsap.* in which ʒ iij. sulphate magnesia and gr. j. tart. antimony were dissolved. A simple vapor bath was administered daily, at a temperature ranging from 110 to 116 deg.; and the time occupied at each sitting varied from thirty to forty minutes, according to the sensations experienced by the patient. As a topical application to the places about the joints, not protected by epidermis, the following was used: R. Ung. stramonii, ℥ iij.; plumbi sub. carb., ʒ iij.; cretæ præparat., ℥ ss. M. The lower limbs to be kept in a horizontal posture.

January 16.—The associate influence of the above measures was seen in a mitigation of nearly all the symptoms. Swelling in legs essentially reduced; decadence of many of the scabs, particularly from hands and arms; some portions of surface beneath yield considerable discharge—others but little; the abraded parts in the neighborhood of the articulations somewhat improved; fissures, generally, lessening; a few have nearly disappeared; others of them still irritable, and emit a thin, bloody serum. Capillary circulation languid, hands and feet cold. Suffers less from itching and smarting. Bowels in a lax state. A few scattering vesicles have appeared within four or five days.

The patient was now submitted to the hot-air and sulphur bath every other day. At the first five or six trials the temperature was not allowed to rise above 120 deg.; time spent in the apparatus, thirty minutes—quantity of sulphur, ℥ ij. On the intervening days, vapor bath as before. Continue ointment and decoction. By the 15th February the legs were reduced to nearly their proper size; but the hard, inelastic tumefaction of the feet manifested a sluggish disposition to subside. The amendment in the upper extremities advanced more satisfactorily than in the lower. No new vesicles or pustules for ten days. The process of desquamation of the scabs and peeling of the cuticle continued with considerable freedom; the acrimonious discharge diminished two thirds, and several spots of diseased surface upon both extremities had by this time acquired a sound state. Patient on two or three occasions, by night, had smart paroxysms of itching about the hams, and did no little damage there by the rough application of the nails. She declared that the provocation was irresistible. To allay this annoyance, hot emollient fomentations were used night and morning.

Elated with the benefits thus far gained, she desired the sulphur fumigations every day, and as there appeared to be nothing in the condition of the system to contra-indicate such a course, they were given accordingly until the end of the month. Some days she took a sulphur bath in the morning and a vapor bath in the evening. Time occupied at each sitting, forty minutes—thermometer at 125 to 130 degrees—quantity of sulphur, ℥ iij.

Up to the first of March the amendment had progressed without interruption, and the disease gave promise of a speedy termination. It had disappeared almost entirely from the upper extremities, and the skin for the most part possessed its normal character—being preternaturally red and rugous at the flexures of the arms only. The finger-joints were marked with a few dry, transverse fissures. Swelling had disappeared from lower limbs, except that considerable puffiness still lingered about the ankles, where, as also in the popliteal folds, the skin remained thickened, red and tender; the patient, however, was able to make short excursions about the city, and could amuse herself at needle work two or three hours in the day; and while she was at this juncture flattering herself with the anticipation of immediate recovery, she was suddenly, and without any appreciable cause, seized with erysipelatous inflammation upon the face. She had for several years been subject to such attacks. The phlyctenæ formed rapidly upon the cheeks and ears; and the other local symptoms were rather severe for four or five days, although there was but a moderate constitutional participation. On the first and second day of the appearance of the exanthem, the sulphur baths were omitted, and the patient was exposed to a simple vapor bath. She remained in the apparatus forty-five minutes, and repeatedly brought her face in contact with the vapor, expressing a consciousness of relief in so doing. Internally—R. Sp. Mindereri, ℥ iv.; sulph. magnes., ʒ vi.; tart. ant., gr. iss. M. Tablespoonful given every two hours till the bowels were efficiently acted upon and the skin brought into a diaphoretic state. On the third of March the sulphur baths were resumed and continued daily, and on the sixth the erysipelatous inflammation had entirely subsided.

Dr. Green states, in his Compendium, that it is usual for the sulphur fumes to occasion, at first, some aggravation in the symptoms of most skin diseases. This occurrence had not, as yet, happened in the treatment of the present case; but shortly after the trouble upon the face had gone, the old disease made a new invasion upon the lower extremities with savage ferocity. The swelling, heat, itching, smarting—all the local symptoms, were of a more violent description than patient had experienced for several years. Her general bodily health was but little disturbed, but her spirits were depressed, and her hope of recovery went under a cloud. For about a week her days and nights were wretched.

Immediately on this sudden outbreak of the malady, which partook more of the features of impetigo than when I commenced with it, twenty leeches were applied to each leg. They worked faithfully, and the oozing of blood was encouraged for several hours, until an ample quantity was taken. Warm emollient fomentations were used several times daily; also the emulsion of almonds, with twenty drops hydrocyanic acid to the ounce—and the abraded surfaces were anointed with Goulard's cerate. No other topical application. In about a week's time the extreme and maddening irritability of the cutaneous vessels had greatly diminished. The sulphur bath was now administered in alternation with the vapor bath, at a temperature of 120, and increased till it reached 130 deg. The raw surfaces about the hams and ankles continued to improve, and soon presented a healthy appearance, except that the skin remained red and tender. In regard to the rest of the diseased portions, the inflammation, discharge, itching, &c., disappeared rapidly; the incrustations were detached from large patches in many instances, without being succeeded by other crusts; while in others they were followed by a thin, superficial, yellowish-white scale, which in its turn was cast off in four or five days, leaving the skin delicate and tender for several weeks after the patient discontinued the baths, which she did on the tenth day of April, having taken, in all, seventy baths in ninety-two days.

The patient has called upon me repeatedly during the past season. The epidermic exfoliation continued for more than two months after she left the baths, but she has had no relapse of her disease,

ON THE LOCATIONS OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BRAIN.

[Translated for this Journal by JOHN F. MAY, M.D.—Continued from page 328.]

Ruminants.—THE attitude of these animals does not differ enough from that of carnivorous animals and the horse, to produce notable differences in the occipital region; and we therefore find in them either a developed ridge or a rounded, transverse and solid angle in the region of the vertex. The only special mechanical conditions connected with special forms of the cranium are, 1st, the mode of mastication; 2d, the offensive usage of the frontal region. Ruminants have the cranium narrow across the temples, because they have a narrow jaw. Moreover, on account of the conformation of the digestive apparatus, the lateral movements of these bones are more energetic than their vertical action; from whence results the great size of the pterygoid and the lessened importance of the temporal and masseter muscles. The cranium evinces this last fact by the smallness of the zygomatic arch, and by the absence of parietal ridge or salient temporal lines; it shows the first by the breadth of the space comprised between the internal face of the jaw and the pterygoid apophysis.

We are struck with the development of the frontal region in all ruminants, and particularly in those that feed on small herbs and have the orbits widely separated. The prodigious power of the forehead of the bull is the result of this conformation, as we shall briefly explain. The posterior lamina of the frontal sinus bounding in front the cavity of the cranium, receives the impulsion of the spinal column transmitted at a right angle—that is to say, at the incidence most favorable for effect. In order that the external lamina of the sinus may also receive this impulse unbroken *(dans son intégrité)*, it is necessary that it should be parallel to the internal, so as to receive it at the same incidence. We find in ruminants the nearest approach to this parallelism, for the sinus is quadrilateral, and the two principal laminæ, instead of encountering each other at an acute angle at their extremities, are united above and below by two osseous laminæ, which, forming the roof and floor of this cavity, cut at almost a right angle both the anterier and posterior laminæ. Thus we see the bull and the goat exercise in all its power this frontal force, their only defence. If this power is less in the elk and stag, whose antlers, according to Buffon, are a superfluous ornament, we find the reason of it in the relation of the two laminæ of the sinus, which depart more from the parallelism, because the external follows the direction of the face, which forms with the cranium a more acute angle. This angle is yet more evident in carnivorous animals, and therefore we never see the tiger or jaguar present the forehead to their enemies.

With the quadrumana the biped station is not natural, of which one may easily be convinced by casting the eye on the pelvis. The orang himself is not an exception; for when his attitude approaches nearest to ours, we still see him support himself by his thoracic extremities. The form of their cranium is as it should be, according to our principles, in animals very elevated on their extremities; that is to say, the occipital foramen is more central than in quadrupeds. The relation of the cranium with the vertebral column produces, as a consequence, 1st, the relative weakness of the splenius complexus muscles, &c., and but a slight projection of the occipital ridge; 2d, the direction of the axis of all the senses so remarkable, inasmuch as it forms with that of the cranium a much less acute angle than in carnivorous animals. Let us observe, here, that in the numerous family of the quadrumana the more central the occipital foramen becomes, the nearer does the physiognomy which results from the relation of the senses approach in resemblance that of man. Let us also remark that the attitude of monkeys is, after our own, that which allows the smallest face and the greatest brain.

The attitude of the lemurs much resembles that of the small carnivorous animals, for their thoracic are but little longer than their pelvic extremities; thus we find them provided with an occipital ridge, with eyes placed laterally, and a snout like the weasel's, which we do not see in the callitrichi (green monkey) and other monkeys of the same size as the lemurs.

The occipital and parietal ridges present, in the cynocephali of high stature, a projection proportional to the size of their jaws and to the posterior position of the occipital foramen; whilst in the orang and chimpanzee they disappear, for mechanical reasons of an opposite character. The inferior jaw of monkeys being of a moderate breadth, the bi-temporal diameter of the cranium is smaller than in carnivorous, and larger than in herbivorous animals. There is therefore no circumstance, as it regards the shape of the head of the quadrumana, which is not rigorously explained by the necessities arising from their mode of station or mastication.

Such are the necessary connections between the forms of the cranium and certain mechanical conditions, either of a partial or general nature. We already discover the anti-phrenological consequenees which result from these connections, and they will no doubt be met by the following objections.

"The attitude of animals is to their habits *(à leur moral)* as gesture is to thought; the mode of mastication is subordinate to nutritive propensities, whether carnivorous or herbivorous, as the instrument is to the will. Forms of the brain, likewise, which determine the propensities, make subservient to their inflexible necessities both the general attitude and the power of the inferior jaw."

This objection is specious; we reply to it—"Certain forms of the cranium and brain coincide always and necessarily with certain modes of station and mastication; but if you assign to the first of these circumstances the place of *primordial* fact, reducing the other to the part of a *secondary* fact, we say that both, equally necessary to each other, contribute in the same right to the harmony of the whole."

All that we have said on the relations of the forms of the cranium and brain with the animal machine, contains an implicit refutation of the doctrine of location. We shall now attack it in a more direct and explicit way, by showing that many animals, whose dispositions are alike, differ in the cranium and brain, because they differ in their attitude, and reciprocally that certain species, whose habits are diverse, present the same conformation of the cranium and brain, simply from their attitude and mastication being similar. We shall arrive at this peremptory result by studying the form of the cranium of certain species in their relations with their habits (*avec les habitudes morales*).

§ 4. *Relations of the Forms of the Cranium with the Habits of Animals.*

We have shown that the conicity of the cranium of small gnawing animals is necessarily connected with their mode of station; let us see if the phrenological signification of this form agrees as well with their character.

Rats and mice, having the head larger behind than anywhere else, should more than any other of the mammalia evince friendship and love of home. If it is difficult to prove the falsity of such an assertion, because we have not exact notions of the habits of rats and mice, is it possible to sustain it otherwise than by hypothesis? But the form of the cranium and brain of these animals is explained by a fact less obscure than their habits; that is, by a mode of station appreciable to all eyes.

All the gnawing animals do not have the head conical; hares and rabbits have it shorter, thicker, and somewhat more globular; it is broader across the temples than anywhere else, and resembles, in all these respects, that of certain carnivorous animals. Thus these animals should be fierce and courageous; but who does not know that they are gentle and timid? And who does not, on the contrary, know that certain rats, whose cranium is shaped for the benevolent affections, destroy the dove cots by killing the young pigeons? Who is ignorant of the ferocity of the field mouse, and German rat (hamster)? However much distrusting the exaggerated reports of certain German observers, we cannot doubt the warlike and sanguinary habits of the latter of these animals, which nevertheless has the temples very much depressed. Perhaps we shall be told that the carnivorous organs occupy a different region in these animals. We agree that this objection is possible in the actual state of phrenology; but as it presents itself to us in regard to the weasel and ferret, we hope to remove it in one of the following paragraphs.

The cranium of the beaver is remarkable by its breadth across the temples and by its depression in every other part; so that the carnivorous organs present in this animal a considerable development. And yet, who has ever supposed that the beaver was of a sanguinary disposition?

If phrenology does not explain the form of the cranium of the rabbit and the sea-hog (capybara), their mechanism presents a sufficient reason. The attitude of these animals is not similar to that of the large carnivorous animals, for their extremities have a greater tendency to flexion; but as they are also susceptible of tolerably complete extension, and as their movement is composed of a series of leaps which elevate the carriage of the head, the latter ought not to be conical; it should be in a degree globular, and more analogous to that of certain carnivorous animals than to that of rats, for reasons that have already been given.

Buffon does not say that the beaver is sanguinary; but he declares that this gnawing animal cuts and saws in a great measure with its incisor teeth the thickest and most resisting branches; which necessarily indicates great energy of mastication. Now in the beaver, the inferior jaw being as strong and broad at its base as in carnivorous animals of the same size, the bi-temporal diameter of the cranium should be of the same length.

If the cranium of the beaver disproves the pretended seat of destructiveness, it gives a formal contradiction to the locality of *constructiveness*, since the depression of the external part of the frontal, contrasts in this animal with the projection of the squamous portion of the temporal bone. And yet the beaver is governed by its industrious instincts as the carnivorous animal is by its ferocious appetites. For mechanical construction, as well as for destructive propensities, a powerful instrument, a broad and strong jaw, is requisite. Thus for constructiveness, as well as for the instinct of destructiveness, the region of the temples is broad, and thus favorable to the articulation of the jaw and the insertion of the temporal muscles. In presence of such facts, is it possible to admit, on the authority of Gall, that the predominance of certain propensities is always expressed by certain forms of the cranium and brain?

The gerboa possesses the gentle habits of the generality of gnawing animals, from whom, however, it differs in the form of the cranium, because it also differs from them in its attitude. The gerboa, like man, is biped; whence the centrality of the occipital foramen. This being found at the point of support, ought to receive the centre of gravity; for this reason there is a uniform subdivision *(répartition)* of the different portions of the brain around the cephalo-rachidian articulation, and hence the peculiar shape (somewhat quadrilateral) of the cranium of the gerboa.

[To be continued.]

OPERATIONS PERFORMED AT THE MASS. GENERAL HOSPITAL.

[Reported for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

DECEMBER 17th. *Removal of Metatarsal Bones*, by Dr. WARREN.—On the 22d of September last, patient received a severe injury of left foot in consequence of rail-road car passing over it; was brought to the Hospital on 26th, and found to have compound fracture of the second and third metatarsal bones, dislocation of several toes, and extensive laceration and some sloughing of the integuments.

October 4th.—The sphacelation being complete, the toes separated with the second and fifth metatarsal bones. The wound then continued to contract and cicatrize until a large portion of its surface was covered with new skin; but, as the remaining metatarsal bones projected from the stump in such a manner as would be inconvenient to the patient when he began to walk upon it, it was determined to remove them.

An incision having been made across the top of the foot just beyond the tarso-metatarsal articulation, the dissection was continued down and the bones sawn through at this point; the knife was then carried forward between the metatarsal bones and the sole of the foot, thus procuring a flap of healthy integument, which, when turned up, was sufficient to cover the greater part of the stump.

Two arteries were secured by ligatures, and the stump dressed with a compress and roller; some hæmorrhage occurring in P. M. the dressings were removed by the House Surgeon, and three small arteries secured, since when the wound has continued to do well.

Amputation of second Toe of left Foot, by Dr. Townsend.—Dec. 9th, patient, who is a man of intemperate habits, had his foot run over by a rail-road car, thereby causing severe contusion of great toe and compound fracture of second phalanx of next toe. Patient appears to be one of those persons whose blood is deficient in fibrin, as he has had repeated hæmorrhages since his entrance, and the blood, on being preserved, was found not to coagulate. The amputation was performed at the articulation in the usual manner; much more hæmorrhage than usual followed the operation, and it was found necessary to secure the artery by a ligature.

SURGICAL CASES AT THE ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Dr. March's Surgical Clinique, December 17, 1842.—[We are compelled, by the crowded state of our pages, to abridge this report. Cases 1 (C. G.) and 2 (Mrs. O'B.) had been presented at former cliniques, and were now doing well.—Case 3, laceration of the hand, with sloughing of the tendons.—Case 4, sprain of elbow-joint, with inflammation and effusion of synovia. Punctures were made in the sacs by Dr. March, for escape of fluid, and their internal surface scarified.—Cases 5 and 6 (T. B. and P. D.), mentioned last week; improved.—Case 7, strabismus; operation deferred.—Case 8 (Miss E. L.), strabismus; right eye before operated upon successfully—now left eye, by the sub-conjunctival method of Gerraud, though the original method is generally preferred by Dr. M.—Case 9, also strabismus, formerly successfully operated upon.—Case 10, aggravated case of internal strabismus; operation successful.—Case 11 (I. L.), before reported with necrosis of tibia—now, by laying open sinuses, three large portions of dead bone were extracted.]

12. Mr. E. T., from St. Lawrence Co., about 42 years old, presented a horrible appearance from the growth of an enormous tumor from the forehead. It commenced about two years since, and, from the history given by the patient himself, probably in the right frontal sinus. At present it projects forward nearly four inches, and measures from side to side about six inches. It has protruded the globes of the eyes from their sockets, and they now present upon either side of the tumor nearly six inches apart. The tumor extends downward from the upper part of the forehead to near the tip of the nose, which it overhangs. The integuments are not as yet discolored, except by the large blue veins which traverse them. The surface of the tumor feels knotty, lobulated to the touch. From these circumstances, it was stated to be of the encephaloid character, probably fungus hæmatodes. An operation for its removal is impracticable, both from its extent and the profuse supply of blood.

13. Mr. I. I. L. Large exostosis of the metacarpal bone of the fore-finger, the result of an injury. The diseased portion of bone was removed by loosening its attachments and cutting it off by Liston's bone nippers. J. B. B.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, DECEMBER 28, 1842.

ELEMENTS OF PHYSIOLOGY, BY MULLER.

THOSE who purchase medical books are familiar with the names of Lea & Blanchard, who are distinguished alike for enterprise, and the standard worth of their scientific publications. Within a few weeks these gentlemen have sent forth a great work—great in more respects than one. In the first place, it is a large-sized octavo, containing 886 pages, in the best style of printing, and well bound. It is the excellent system of physiology, known far and wide, by Dr. Muller, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Berlin, originally translated from the German by Dr. William Baly; and finally re-modelled, improved, and brought down to 1843, so that it embraces all the new discoveries and suggestions of the day, by our distinguished countryman, Dr. Bell, of Philadelphia. Thus, in a paragraph, a general plan of this valuable production is presented. Of its intrinsic excellences as a system of physiology, it is unnecessary to speak, since the fame of its author has been promulgated in all countries. Although this is called, tacitly, an abridgement of the original work, there is quite enough still remaining to satisfy the most greedy physiological bibliomaniac, and at a price, too, of an inviting character. How books of such merit can be afforded at the asking prices, is to us matter of surprise. At Mr. Ticknor's, Washington street, in this city, physicians in New England may send their orders for Muller's Physiology, and rely upon receiving the worth of their money.

Moral Exposures of the Medical Profession.—John P. Harrison, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica in the Medical College of Ohio, gave an introductory lecture, the present season, that is distinguished for its bold description of the besetting sins of medical practitioners. He knows what sort of a man a physician should be; and this is more than falls to the lot of many who enter upon the responsibilities of professional life. He has ascertained the vices of the medical public, and, like a faithful limner, exhibits every line and expression of the moral features. Further, he is a philosopher, and reasons correctly upon the origin of the evils he has depicted, and points out the direct road to professional influence and personal happiness. Dr. Harrison, therefore, has claims of a high order; he has launched into open sea, with the laudable desire of piloting all ships, within hailing distance, into a safe harbor and a well-protected port. The publication of the lecture was an evidence of the refined sentiments of the class, and the lecture itself is honorable to the institution from whence it emanated. Nothing but a continued press of matter prevents us from re-publishing a large part of the pamphlet. We hope, however, to be able hereafter to make quotations from it, for the edification of our readers.

Treatment of Diseases of the Skin.—A paper from Dr. Durkee will be noticed in to-day's Journal, that commends itself to the attention of the professional reader. The fact is, it is beginning to be considered a hard task to effect ready cures of all diseases of the skin; and the discovery, or rather general avowal of this unwelcome truth, has led to important therapeutical results—both here and in Europe. It is by no means a reproach to a physician that he cannot master every malady; but it is a proud achievement to prescribe successfully for a single class of disorders to which frail humanity is incident. By referring to Dr. Durkee's article, the reader will perceive what can be accomplished in obstinate cutaneous affections, and we therefore recommend it to his notice.

Healthian Journal.—Some one has sent us No. 14 of the first volume of an octavo sheet with the above name, published in London, and republished by J. A. Whitmarsh, in Boston. It is decidedly a milk and water production, below the ordinary standard of a child's capacity. How it is possible to find paying readers enough to support such trash, is inconceivable. It seems that this is designed to be distributed to the former patrons of the Health Journal, which is now stone dead. Graham's letters were enough to kill anything in the shape of a periodical. He was not satisfied with doing all the talking, but he wanted to do all the writing, too. There were such endless repetitions of I, I, I, that they lost their influence even with the no-meat men.

Evils of Pantaloon Straps.—Fashion has been particularly severe upon the lower limbs of her votaries, within the last two years. It was not enough to half strangle a gentleman with a stiff, buckled neck-stock, which has been influential in sending many a one to his long home, although charged to the account of an inexplicable apoplexy. These tight straps under the feet, when the leg is flexed, press the knee-pan so forcibly into the cavity of the joint, that it is by no means strange there are numerous complaints of weak knees, rheumatic pains and soreness of the muscles. The fact is, if the custom is not abandoned pretty soon, the remedy for the diseases they produce must be extensively circulated —which simply consists in removing the cause. However genteel it may be to have garments well fitted, they should never be allowed to interfere with the functions of the body by abridging the motions of the joints, nor so compress any part as to induce disease. This fashion, like some that are tolerated by the ladies, wars against personal comfort, convenience, and the freedom of locomotion.

Maine Medical School.—Some alterations have been made in the board of faculty, of late. Dr. William Sweetser, of New York, is to be the lecturer on Theory and Practice of Physic, the ensuing term; and Dr. Edw. R. Peaslee, of Dartmouth College, will lecture on Anatomy and Surgery. These gentlemen are favorably known to the public, and we therefore hope that the medical school of the State of Maine will be sustained the coming lecture term, with the vigor and character of past years. Commencement of lectures, terms, &c., may be learned on our advertising page.

Prescriber's Pharmacopœia.—One of the neatest little books that we have seen for a long time, bears this title. It is a re-print from a London edition, revised, improved, and, it is presumed, Americanized, by an American physician. With this in the waistcoat pocket, the young practitioner would have a ready prompter, and prescriptions might often be predicated on the authority of this compilation. Without being original or costly, every one must acknowledge that it is a convenient reference. Mr. Ticknor, of this city, has it.

Medical Student's Guide.—When mention was made of this, last week, a copy had not reached us: we have now the pleasure of consulting it, and find that Dr. Chase has acquitted himself very satisfactorily. It is strictly a medical directory of the city of Philadelphia, with which medical students, who visit that place, should be provided. From day to day through the season of lectures, it would be a constant, and, to a stranger, an indispensable medical guide. Mr. Ticknor has this also on sale.

Medical Miscellany.—Although the fever had been severe at Cape Palmas, Africa, at the last accounts, not one death had occurred up to May.—It is asserted that the mortality in Harper is less than in the city of Baltimore. The bills of mortality in Baltimore show that the deaths amongst the free colored population, are annually over four per cent. At Cape Palmas the mortality is less than three per cent.—Resolutions were adopted by the medical students of Geneva College, on the 15th, exceedingly complimentary to Dr. Delamater.

To Correspondents.—In addition to communications before acknowledged, we have on hand one from Dr. H. C. Gray.—The writer of the article on calomel, commenced in to-day's Journal, is a physician of high standing in the West.

Married,—Dr. W. A. Manning, of Prince George Co., to Miss R. S. Manning, of Eastern Hill, Maryland.—At Quebec, Dr. Smith, Staff Surgeon, to Miss P. Haskness.—At South Hampton, N. H., Dr. Ezra B. Gale, of Kingston, to Miss E. Atwood.

Died,—At Montreal, James Ritchie Dick, M.D., House Surgeon of the Montreal Hospital, and Lecturer and Demonstrator of Anatomy in McGill College, 27.—At New Orleans, Dr. Nathan Washburn, of Bridgewater, Mass.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Dec. 24, 23.—Males, 13; Females, 10. Stillborn, 6. Of consumption, 2—croup, 3—typhus fever, 2—lung fever, 4—erysipelas, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1—infantile, 3—scarlet fever, 1—old age, 1—throat distemper, 1—teething, 1—pleurisy fever, 1—intemperance, 1—palsy, 1.

TO DENTISTS.

Mineral Teeth, Gold Foil (superior), Platina Plate and Wire, Tin Foil, Scalers, Files, Turnkeys, Flagg's and other Forceps, together with many other aticles in the line of dentistry, for sale by

Dec. 28.—eop12t BREWERS, STEVENS & CUSHING, *Druggists,*

Nos. 90 and 92 Washington street.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

The Medical Lectures at Bowdoin College will commence on Monday, the 20th day of February, 1843.

Theory and Practice of Physic, by - - -	William Sweetser, M.D., of New York.
Anatomy and Surgery, by - - - - -	Edmund R. Peaslee, M.D., of Dart. Coll.
Obstetrics, by - - - - - - - -	Ebenezer Wells, M.D.
Chemistry and Materia Medica, by - - - - -	Parker Cleaveland, M.D.

The Library, containing about 3000 volumes, principally modern works, and the Anatomical Cabinet, are annually increasing.

Every person becoming a member of this institution, is required *previously* to present *satisfactory* evidence of possessing a good moral character.

The amount of fees for the lectures is $50, payable in advance. Graduation fee, $10. The lectures continue three months.

Degrees are conferred at the close of the lecture term in May, and at the following Commencement in September.

PARKER CLEAVELAND, *Secretary.*

Brunswick, Nov., 1842. N. 23.—6teow

INSTRUMENTS.

Theodore Metcalf, Apothecary, No. 33 Tremont Row, offers to surgeons and dentists, the best selected assortment of Instruments to be found in the city: consisting in part of Amputating, Trepanning, Obstetrical, Dissecting, Strabismus, Pocket, Eye and Cooper's Cases; Scarificators, Catheters, Bougies, Stomach Pumps, Injecting do., Spring and Thumb Lancets, Dissecting and Dressing Scissors, Trocars, Needles, Bistouries; Dressing, Dissecting, Polypus and Throat Forceps Tonsil Instruments, &c. &c. of American and English manufacture.

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RESPIRATORS, OR BREATH-WARMING INSTRUMENTS.

The subscriber, believing, on the recommendation of the British medical faculty, and from his own experience, that Respirators are useful instruments in most thoracic diseases, has imported many of them during the past three years, and he will continue to do so. Some months since, the London agent declined sending any more of those previously sold at the lowest price. The undersigned has therefore had some manufactured under his own immediate inspection.

They may be procured at his house, 17 Bedford street, Boston; at the Infirmary for Diseases of the Lungs, 5 1-2 Tremont row; at Metcalf's apothecary shop, Tremont street; and at this office; also, at the residences of the following physicians and apothecaries:—B. F. Baker, M.D., Norwich, Ct.; A. O. Dickey, M.D., Lyme, N. H.; Mr. Hall, Apothecary, Keene, N. H.; Mr. E. Fuller, Apothecary, Augusta, Me.; James C. Ayer, Apothecary, Centre street, Lowell; Messrs. James Green & Co., Apothecaries, Worcester, Mass.; Messrs. Adamson & Olliff, Apothecaries, 6 Bowery and 699 Broadway, New York; Mr. Frederick Brown, Apothecary, corner of 5th and Chesnut streets, Philadelphia. O. 5—eop3m H. I. BOWDITCH, M.D.

TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The subscribers, at their rooms in Tremont street, continue to give personal instruction to private pupils as heretofore, in the various branches of medicine, in connection with the practical pursuit of anatomy, and attendance on the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Eye and Ear Infirmary, and the other opportunities belonging to their school.

JACOB BIGELOW,
EDWARD REYNOLDS,
D. HUMPHREYS STORER,
OLIVER W. HOLMES.

Jy 28—eop1y

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TREATMENT OF HERNIA.—DR. CHASE'S TRUSS.

The undersigned hereby gives notice, that he is furnished with the various instruments invented by Heber Chase, M.D., of Philadelphia, for the radical cure of Hernia; and will continue to attend personally to their application, as he has heretofore done during the absence of the late Dr. E. W. Leach, of this city.

HENRY G. CLARK. M.D.,
No. 204 Hanover street, Boston.

May 19, 1842. My 25—

IMPROVED SILVER CATHETER.

The superior Silver Catheter, made by the subscriber, may be found at Metcalf's, No. 33 Tremont row. My 11—* D. SMILEY, JR.

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